



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

North Fork HPP Committee

Zoom Videoconference

April 6th, 2021

7:00 p.m.

North Fork HPP Members Present: Kyler McCarrel, USFS; Cody Purcell, CPW; Ken Holsinger, BLM; Steve Kossler, Livestock Grower; Ross Allen, Livestock Grower; Adam Gall, Sportsperson

Guests: Pat Tucker, CPW; Andrew Taylor, CPW

Introduction: Committee members were introduced and the budget was reviewed.

Old Business:

1. Andrew Taylor updated the committee on the orchard high fence removal effort, which is targeting properties that have changed or lost leases or water rights and will no longer be used in agricultural production. One fence was removed last week from the Bowie Mine property with donated labor from West Slope Conservation Center and Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. The orchard contained 4 acres of 5 year old peach trees, but the water rights were lost. The orchard will not be used for further production and so the fence is no longer needed.

New Business:

1. Andrew Taylor presented the McCluskey Weed Control project proposal. Ongoing weed control efforts have helped keep whitetop infestations in check in the past, but in the last several years the infestation has spread towards the BLM lands on the west side of the property. Approximately 30 acres of the worst area of infestation are being targeted for pre-bloom treatment to help severely reduce the presence and spread. Additional years of follow-up treatment will be necessary to contain the infestation and continue to make progress towards eradicating it. In the past HPP treatment efforts have been performed by the landowner, and the majority of the treated areas are on the private fields. This treatment would be performed by a 3rd party contractor, and would focus on the public land portion. The committee approved \$5,000.00 for the contractor costs for herbicide application.

Other Business:

1. Ken Holsinger is planning a cedar thinning project on BLM near McCluskey SWA, and some of the treatment may take place on the SWA. Up to 500 acres are planned. BLM is putting together information for contractor bids and will likely submit a request to HPP as well.

Next Meeting: TBD